Slow tempo of Development in States

663. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:
SHRI KALPNATH RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tempo of development in some of the States has been much slower than targeted for in the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take in this regard and whether any special assistance was given to step up the developmental activities in these States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) The total approved Annual Plan outlay of all the States taken together recorded an increase of 6.8 per cent in the year 1985-86 over the previous year, the corresponding figure for the year 1986-87 being 21 per cent. The total estimated State Plan expenditure of all States for the Annual Plan 1985-86 has also been higher than the targetted amount as reflected in the total approved State Plan outlay. The indication are that the total State Plan expendiure of all States in 1986-87 would also be more or less to the targeted amount as reflected in the total approved State Plan outlay.

As regards individual States also, these were significant shortfalls in estimated expenditure as against the approved Annual Plan 1985-86 outlay only in the case of two States, namely, Haryana and Madhya Pradesh. The indications are that in the year 1986-87 the total state Plan expenditure in even these two States would be almost equal to the targetted amounts as reflected in the total approved State Plan outlays in the year 1986-87. No special measures are thus needed for stepping up developmental actitvities in these States.

Reduction in the strength of Armed Forces

664. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to reduce the strength of armed forces over the next ten years;

(b) whether Government are also considering any proposal for national service conscription for a duration of two to three years for students and youths; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) Force levels are reviewed periodically keeping in view the security environment in the region, acquistion of weapon systems by our potential adversaries and technological developments in weapon systems.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Not applicable.

Finance of large Public Limited Companies

665. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Company Finance Division of the Reserve Bank of India has pointed out in their study titled 'Finances of large Public Limited Companies' that large public limited companies each with a paid up capital of over Rs. 1 crore had caused the country a drain of foreign exchange amounting over Rs. 600 crores due to their expenditure in foreign currencies outbeating their earnings on this front;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard, including the names of the large public limited companies involved; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government in regard thereto and what corrective steps are proposed to be taken in the matter?